

our energy policy by reforming the permitting process, by boosting the production of critical minerals, and by reversing President Biden's antienergy policies that have made our country less secure.

It is time to pass H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, and increase domestic energy production to restore our Nation to the energy independence that we enjoyed before President Biden took office.

H.R. 1 will stop Biden's \$6 billion natural gas tax. It will require the Department of the Interior to resume lease sales on Federal lands. H.R. 1 will enhance our ability to develop critical energy resources.

Unfortunately, Pennsylvania families are hurting because of the restrictive energy policies enacted by far-left liberals under the guise of green energy. Now is the time to embrace the critical resources like oil, natural gas, and Marcellus shale that are underneath the feet of my constituents in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. It is time to pass H.R. 1 and get back to working for the American people.

#### HONORING GWEN DOWDY-RODGERS, VANESSA PEREZ, AND PAULA GRANADO FLORES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three phenomenal women in my district for Women's History Month. These women were nominated by their peers and local elected officials for their incredible dedication to supporting the Inland Empire.

The first woman I recognize is Dr. Gwen Dowdy-Rodgers. Dr. Dowdy-Rodgers is the first Black woman to serve on the San Bernardino County Board of Education. She was born and raised in San Bernardino, and first became involved in the school system as a parent advocate.

She is a fierce advocate for mental health in schools, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. She believes that mental health issues need to be a priority in schools so students can stay happy and healthy in their learning environment.

Besides serving with distinction on the Board of Education, she serves as the president of the Arrowhead United Way board of directors, co-chair of the San Bernardino County Gangs and Drugs Task Force, and a member of the San Bernardino City Police Department African American Advisory Committee.

My community is lucky to have Dr. Dowdy-Rodgers, a committed public servant dedicated to helping our students and hearing the concerns of parents.

The second woman I recognize is Ms. Vanessa Perez. Vanessa is executive director of the Time for Change Foundation. She is an active volunteer in our

community through her work and her involvement in her church, The Way World Outreach.

Through her work at Time for Change, Vanessa is living out a passion of empowering women to use their voice to create change. In 2014, she completed the Women's Foundation of California's Solis Policy Institute, which provided her with the skills necessary to navigate the California legislative process and influence decision-makers to create policies that improved the quality of life of San Bernardino residents and all Californians.

Madam Speaker, the third woman I recognize is Ms. Paula Granado Flores. She is a long-term volunteer and co-chair of ACS Colton Relay for Life and a frequent volunteer in several local churches, Seeds For Hope, and the American Legion. Ms. Flores has dedicated her free time for decades to help the residents of San Bernardino County.

These women are changing my community for the better every day, and I am proud to be their Representative here in Congress. They have made a lasting impact in our region and deserve to be recognized for the extraordinary work that they have done to further our community.

As we round out Women's History Month, I thank them for their service to our region, to the Inland Empire, and to the State of California.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO LOWELL DIBBLE AND MAX WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two World War II veterans who recently celebrated their 100th and 101st birthdays.

Lowell Dibble of Iowa City, Iowa, celebrated his 101st birthday on St. Patrick's Day. Mr. Dibble served as a radio operator for the Merchant Marines during the Second World War, using Morse code and other communications to receive and record time signals, weather reports, and other information important to the smooth operation of their vessels.

Mr. Dibble starts each day with a workout and still talks to his friends in Morse code every night. He attributes his longevity to his positive attitude, his faith, and keeping busy. We can all learn a valuable lesson from Mr. Dibble, who should be an inspiration for people of all ages who struggle to find motivation in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize Max Wilson from Maquoketa, Iowa, who celebrated his 100th birthday last month.

Mr. Wilson was drafted in 1941 and served as a bombardier during the Second World War, flying 43 missions in a B-17 in five different countries. As bombardier, he was responsible for

landing more than 240,000 tons of bombs on target during critical missions throughout the war.

Mr. Wilson is a humble man who doesn't see himself as a hero, though he certainly is deserving of recognition. On his birthday, he received a special gift from the University of Dubuque's Jet Center—a private flight around Dubuque and down to his hometown of Maquoketa.

Mr. Dibble and Mr. Wilson are two heroes from the Greatest Generation, and I am honored to recognize them both on the House floor. I hope each enjoyed a wonderful and memorable birthday.

#### CHINA IS OUR GREATEST FOREIGN THREAT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss China's growing role in international relations and its impact on American national security.

In just the last few weeks, China has brokered a peace deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia and re-established diplomatic relations with Honduras following its break with Taiwan. Both negotiations are worrisome as Iran continues to target and kill Americans in Syria and China edges closer to invading Taiwan. Also, the Chinese Communist Party is fully supporting Russia in its unprecedented and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

China's growing influence across Latin America is concerning, particularly as these relationships continue to appear lopsided. Nations are receiving investments from the Chinese, but in return are left dependent on the Chinese Communist Party.

The Middle East is especially concerning, though. For decades, the United States has brokered peace negotiations in the region or, at the very least, been in the room as these deals have been agreed upon.

Between Iran and Saudi Arabia, however, the United States was left out. The implications of this decision are profound, particularly as Iran continues to sponsor terrorist attacks as it is unclear what peace was agreed to and our response was weak.

Our Nation has watched as the Chinese Communist Party has grown in power and influence, and has fallen victim to its espionage efforts whether through TikTok, Confucius Institutes, or even spy balloons.

The Chinese Communist Party's goals are clear: Infiltrate and undermine American economic and national security. As the CCP's influence continues to grow, its threat to our national security does too. We must actively seek ways to decouple our economy, end our dependence on Chinese supply chains, and bolster our national security.

China is our greatest foreign threat and it is time we begin to act accordingly.

I wish a happy birthday to Joseph and Matthew Martino of Connecticut, who are my nephews. Happy 16th birthday, Joseph and Matthew.